

# Memo

To: Board of Selectmen  
From: William G. Keegan, Jr., Town Administrator  
CC: Assistant Town Administrator, Director of Finance  
Date: January 10, 2012  
Re: Town Administrator's Report for the Meeting of 1/5/2012

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For this report I thought I would just summarize some of the highlights of the past year as they are also important for setting the stage for the New Year of 2012. The following is a brief synopsis of the Year in Review for 2011.

-Dedham Celebrated its 375<sup>th</sup> Birthday, Honored the 911 Victims at a Town-wide celebration in September

-The Dedham Square Improvement Project wins Approval at Town Meeting and the work is put out to bid in December, \$1.7 Million Dollar PWED Grant Awarded

-Named Finalist for coveted All-America City Award

-ESCO Improvements are near completion, and are already showing savings in our energy budgets.

-New Avery School Nears Completion

-New High School Athletic Complex Completed, Dedicated at Thanksgiving

-New Director of Facilities and Maintenance Established for Town and School Departments, new Director Hired in November

-Process of Codification of By-laws and Charter Provisions Initiated in Town Clerk's Office

-Council on Aging Director Departs but then Returns, and the COA then led a very successful process of surveying seniors to better understand their needs

The Town was recognized as a Tree City USA Community for the third straight year for the Town's commitment to planting and maintaining trees on public property.

Police Detective Kevin Mahoney was recognized by the New England Narcotic Enforcement Officers Association with a Meritorious Service Award for his work on a narcotics investigation case that involved local, regional and federal police agencies

- The Town was visited by a Japanese Professor to research our Form of Government

- Hosted Pakistan Government Official for Two Weeks in March

- Officially Named a “Green Community” in Massachusetts

- Secured Bonds for New Avery School at 2.855%. Original estimates were 4.5%.

- New Solar Panels Added to the roofs of Town Hall and the High School

- New Financial System Conversion Underway

- GIS Division Wins National Award by ESRI at a meeting in California.

- We welcomed a new Youth Services Director and New Veteran’s Agent after long time Youth Services Director Tom Clinton Retired and Former Veteran’s Agent/ Purchasing Director Audrey Insalaco accepted a new role with the City of Attleboro.

- Achieved 33% Reduction in Volume of Trash Disposal over Three Year Period, stemming the rising cost of waste removal.

In August, the Police Department participated in National Night Out for the first time. This was a three day event held to raise awareness for Public Safety and engage neighborhood groups.

- The Towns of Dedham and Westwood Won an MAPC Planning Grant for Pedestrian and Bike Improvements

- The Dedham and Westwood Planning Boards and Conservation Commissions Performed a Joint Review of a Newly Proposed Office Complex on Town Borders

- The Town Survived Tropical Storm Irene, Surprise Halloween Snow Storm with few local response issues, though we did sustain some power outages that lasted several days

In October, Director of Public Health, Catherine Cardinale received the John D. Crowley Award for dedicated service and outstanding achievement in Public Health from the Mass. Health Officers Association.

- The Washington Street Gateway Improvements were proposed in November

- A Town-Wide Branding and Marketing Campaign was initiated

- Selectmen voted to accept the new provisions of the Health Care Reform Legislation

-An internal staff Communications Committee was Established to evaluate our current Web Site Platform and Telephone Communication Equipment for Town and School Facilities

A Study was initiated of the Endicott Estate to determine if operational and marketing improvements could be made

-Public Safety Study Performed of Fire, Police and Dispatch Operations to determine operational improvements and effectiveness

The Parks and Recreation Commission established the first Dog Park on a 90 day trial on the grounds of the new Dolan Recreation Center

The first fully handicapped accessible playground was built and opened at Condon Park in November

-Road performance level improve to a level just below a CPI Rating of 80 after an Aggressive Five Year Road Improvement Project led by the Engineering and Public Works Departments

-Sewer Improvements Save Rate Payers \$5.8 Million Dollars Over A Five Year Span

-Town Administrator and Economic Development Director Named “Business People of the Year” for 2011 by the Neponset Valley Chamber of Commerce

**All in All a pretty productive year!**